ARTICLES OF Viſitation and Enquiry,

CONCERNING

MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL,

Exhibited to the

Miniſters and Church-Wardens of every Pariſh within the Dioceſe of

WORCESTER,

AT THE

Triennial Viſitation

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God, *EDWARD* Lord Biſhop of *Worceſter*, A. D. 1693.

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ASTA

Articles to be inquired of, and answered unto, by the Church-Wardens in the Dioceſs of *Worceſter*.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

IS your Pariſh Church, or Chappel, in good and ſufficient repair, both for the Roof, Windows, Floor and Seats? *Can.* 85.

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chappel, or Steeple been demoliſhed or pulled down? What part, and how long ſince? Or any of the Lead, Timber, or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any way imbezelled, or ſold, and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone, with a Cover? Doth the Miniſter baptize publickly in the Font? Is there a decent Communion-Table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another Covering of White Linnen to be ſpread thereon, at the time of the Adminiſtration of the Lord's Supper? And have you a fair Chalice or Communion Cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flagons? Have they been profaned by common uſe? *Can.* 81, 82.

4. Have you beſides a convenient Seat or Pew, wherein to read Divine Service, a Pulpit, with a decent Cloth or Cuſſion, a large Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, and a Book of Common-Prayer, publiſhed *Anno* 1662. the Book of Homilies ſet forth by Authority, and a Printed Table of the Degrees, wherein Marriages are prohibited, and a Book of Canons and Conſtitutions Eccleſiaſtical, and decent Surplice and Hood? *Can.* 83. 80. *Stat.* *Can.* 99. 58.

5. Have you a Regiſter-Book in Parchment of Chriſtnings, Burials and Marriages? And is the ſame kept in all Points, according to the Ancient uſe, and duly ſent into the Biſhops Regiſtry, yearly within one Month after the 25th of *March*? *Can.* 79.

Can. 89. 6. Have you a Book for the Church-wardens Accounts? As also, a Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the said Books, and the aforementioned Furniture?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-Yard, the Houses, Glebes and Tythes belonging to the Church.

1. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any Door in it? And how long since?

2. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-houses in good repair? Have any of them been defaced or pulled down without License? Have there been any encroachments made upon the same? or any of the Antient marks or bounds removed or changed? And by whom?

Can. 87. 3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebelands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a Note of such Pensions, Rate-Tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been with-held from your Minister? And by whom, as you know, or have heard? And is your Terrier laid up in the Bishops Registry?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

Act of Uniform *Can.* 48. *Stat.* 13 Eliz. c. 12. *Can.* 48. 1. IS your Minister, Vicar or Curate in Holy Orders, and duly qualified according to the Laws of this Realm? Hath your Minister been legally inducted? Hath he read the 39 Articles within the time appointed by Law, and declared his Assent thereto? Is he defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Symoniacal Compact? Is he licensed by the Bishop?

Can. 45. 47, 48. 2. Hath your Minister any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? Is he constantly Resident among you, and doth he preach every Lord's

Lord's Day, unless hindred by Sickness or reasonable Absence? How long in any one Year hath he been absent from his Cure? Who supplies the Cure, during his Absence? Are all Offices of the Church duly performed? Doth he serve any other Cure besides? Hath he a Competent Allowance?

3. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, use the Form and Words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer: And all such Rites and Ceremonies as are appointed in that Book, so far as you have observed? *Act of Uniform.*

4. Doth your Minister at the Reading and Celebrating Divine Offices in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice, together with such other Habit as is suitable to his Degree? *Can.* 58.

5. Doth your Minister Celebrate the Lord's Supper so often in every year, that every Parishioner may receive thrice at least? And doth he keep back those who ought not to be admitted, giving an Account of them to the Bishop? *Can.* 21, 22, 56. *Rubr. before Communion.*

6. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Catechism? and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed to be confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of *England*? *Can.* 26. *Can.* 59. *Rubr. before Confirm.*

7. Doth he neglect or refuse to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant in danger of Death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other Person grown up, through your Minister's default, yet remaining Unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he use to Baptize any without God-fathers, and God-mothers? *Can.* 61. *Can.* 66. *Can.* 67, 68, 69.

8. Hath he presumed to Marry any Persons in private Houses; or such as being under Age, have not the Consent of their Parents or Guardians; or without Banns first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church; or at any other Hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a License so to do? *Can.* 29. *Can.* 62, 63.

9. Doth your Minister declare to the People every Sunday, at the time appointed in the Communion Book, the several Holy-days and Fasting-days in the Week following? And is he an Example to others in observing them? *Can.* 64.

10. Is

Can. 74, 75. 10. Is your Minister a Man of a Studious, Sober, Peaceable and Exemplary Life? Is he Grave, Modest and Regular in his outward Demeanour and Apparel? Is he in any kind whatsoever disorderly and scandalous?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishoners.

Ca. 109. 1. IS there any Person in your Parish, that lieth under a common fame, or suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of God's Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers, or sowers of Sedition, Faction, and Discord amongst their Neighbours?

Can. 18 2. Doth every Parishioner in your Church or Chappel as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themselves reverently, kneeling at Prayers, and at the Sacrament, standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

3. Are there any married Women in your Parish, who after their Delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their *Rubr.* publick Thanksgiving to God?

4. Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for *Easter-* *Can.* 85. Offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

5. Did any by their Last Wills or Testaments leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other Pious and Charitable purposes, which have been misspent or imbezelled, and by whom?

6. Are there are any Persons living in your Parish, who under pretence of Liberty of Conscience, wholly neglect all publick worship of God, or do not Assemble together in such way and manner as is requir d by the late Act?

7. Are there any who profess to live in the Communion of the Church of *England*, who neglect coming to the Sacrament of *Ca.* 112. the Lord's Supper, being of Age fit to receive it?

8. Are there any living within your Parish as Man and Wife, *Ca.* 90. who are within the Degrees prohibited? Or any that being lawfully Married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law do not co-habit together?

9. Do

9. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish who having the presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any Simoniacal Compact or Gain thereby, either in Money, or by Reserve of any part of the Tithes or Glebe belonging to the Benefice?

10. Have any Pews or Seats been erected in your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary? Is there any Strife or Contention about Seats in the Church? Have any occasioned Riot, Clamour or Disturbance in the Church at any time?

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

1. HAVE you belonging to your Church or Chappel, a Parish-Clerk, Aged Twenty One Years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation, and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duly paid unto him? Or who with-holdeth the same from him? *Can.* 91.

2. Doth your Sexton diligently do his duty, in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, School-Masters, and Schools.

1. WHat Hospital, Alms-House, or Free School hath been founded in your Parish? Are they so order'd in their Revenue and use, as the Founders appointed, and the Law of the Land allows?

2. What School-Master private or publick is there in your Parish? Is he Licensed by the Bishop? Doth he teach his Scholars in the Church-Catechism? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holydays, orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon? *Can.* 77, 78, 79.

3. Do any in your Parish practise Physick, Chyrurgery or Midwifry, without License from the Ordinary? 3. *H.* 8. *c.* 11.

TIT.

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-men.

Can. 89. 1. ARE the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishoners? Or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishoners?

Ibid. 2. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-Wardens the Moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

Rubr. at Commun. 3. You are further to understand, That according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

TIT. VIII.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

Can. 38. 1. DOth any such Officer pretend to Authorize, or permit any one coming to Reside in this Diocese to Preach, Read Lectures, Catechise or Administer the Sacrament? Or to execute any other Ecclesiastical Function, unless he first Consent and Subscribe to the Three Articles mentioned, *Can.* 36. in Presence of the Bishop of the Diocese?

Ca. A.D. 1571. 2. Hath any Commutation of Penance been made by any Ecclesiastical Officer? By whom? for what Offences? Do you know of any pious Use such Money hath been imploy'd in?

Tit. Cancell. 3. Have any Ecclesiastical Officers in Visitations, or other Exercise of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction exacted, and taken any other or greater Fees than are allowed by the Ecclesiastical Laws, or by the Statutes of this Realm?

Can. 135. 4. Hath any Chancellour, Commissary, Arch Deacon, Official, or any other Person using Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, passed any judicial Act without the ordinary Register of that Court, or such Persons as by Law are allowed in that behalf?

FINIS.